



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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**FOUR DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR COCAINE SMUGGLING
IN SEMI-SUBMERSIBLE VESSEL**

Tampa, Florida - In conjunction with Operation Panama Express, United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the unsealing of a two-count indictment of ADELMO TORRES-AGUIRRE, a 32-year-old resident of Colombia, ABIMELEC MURILLO-MOSQUERA, a 41-year-old resident of Colombia, ROBIS OSUEL SOLIS-CACERES, a 42-year-old resident of Guatemala, and RAJAKUMAR RAJADURAI, a 52-year-old Sri Lankan who is a resident alien of Colombia, charging them with violations of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act. Count one charges a conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, while on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Count two charges aiding and abetting in the possession with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine, while on board a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

The maximum penalties each defendant faces if convicted on all counts are life imprisonment and a fine of \$4 million. The defendants will make their initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary S. Scriven in federal court today at 2:00 p.m. in Tampa.

According to the indictment and an earlier filed Complaint, on November 16, 2006, the United States Coast Guard Cutter STEADFAST, while on routine patrol in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, encountered an unidentified Self-Propelled Semi-Submersible (SPSS) vessel on a northwesterly heading traveling at five knots, approximately 90 nautical miles southwest of Cabo Blanco, Costa Rica, in international waters. A law enforcement boarding team launched from the STEADFAST, observed the four crew members of the SPSS, defendants TORRES-AGUIRRE, MURILLO-MOSQUERA, SOLIS-CACERES, and RAJADURAI, exit through a hatch located in the middle of the vessel. On board the SPSS, the boarding team located and seized numerous bales of cocaine, weighing approximately 7000 lbs. or 2.9 tons, in the forward section of the vessel, on top of the fuel tanks, and in the engine room. A loaded AK-47 rifle was also found and seized on the vessel. All four defendants were arrested and transported to the Middle District of Florida to be prosecuted.

This case was investigated by the Operation Panama Express task force which comprises the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew H. Perry.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.